

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 (Canceled). Non-elected claims.

Claims 32-43 (Canceled).

44. (New) An improved method for treating osteoporosis in a mammal with an effervescent bisphosphonate solution, comprising:

administering to a patient in need of treatment for osteoporosis an effervescent solution having a buffered pH of 4.5 to about 5.5, obtained by dissolving 3.5 to about 6 grams of a solid composition in water;

wherein said solid composition consists essentially of

(a) an effective amount of a bisphosphonate,

(b) about 45 – 60 wt.% of an acid component selected from the group consisting of citric acid, tartaric acid and alkali metal salts thereof,

(c) about 30 – 55 wt.% of an alkaline component selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal bicarbonate, an alkali metal carbonate and mixtures thereof.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate, etidronate or risedronate.

46. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the acid component is about 45% by weight of the solid composition.

47. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the composition is in the form of a tablet.

48. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the solid composition has a weight of about 5,000 mg or more.

49. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the solid composition contains a solublizing agent and sweetener.

50. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein the solublizing agent is selected from the group consisting of a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyethylene glycol, a dextran and mixtures thereof.

51. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein the solution has buffering capacity to mediate the patient's stomach pH for 15 minutes or more.

52. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein the amount of bisphosphonate in the composition is about 70 to 2000 mg.